

VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT & IDENTIFICATION

Three different approaches were utilized to identify and assess the recreation, park, and open space needs of College Station over the next decade. These different approaches are necessary due to the unique features of recreation, park, and open space resources. Land availability, for example, lends itself to standards, whereas programs and facilities needs arise from public demand. Open spaces linked to floodplains, on the other hand, are resource-driven.

As discussed below, the three approaches are integrated so that needs are area, facility, and program specific, and are also tied to the overall goals and objectives of the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The existing facilities and proposed improvements for the period 2002 - 2012 are illustrated in the **College Station Parks Master Plan (Map G, page VI-2)**.

A. Standards-based Approach

Park Land. As detailed in **Section IV** of this plan, general standards provide the initial basis for determining how many of what types of parks will be needed in order to meet College Station's growing population.

The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) 1983 Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines recommended an average of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of mini, neighborhood, and community parks per 1,000 population. While NRPA subsequently moved to recommend a more flexible approach to land, facility, and service provision in its 1996 guidelines, the City of College Station found the earlier standards useful for initial planning purposes, subject to population needs, resource availability, and funding.

Specifically, the city will attempt to provide a ratio of neighborhood and community park land of approximately 7.0 acres per 1,000 population (3.5 acres neighborhood parks and 3.5 acres community parks per 1,000). This standard is an update from that discussed in the city's 1997 Comprehensive Plan. At that time, it was thought the city would try to provide a ratio of park land closer to the upper end previously recommended by NRPA, or 10.5 acres per 1,000 population, due to College Station's relatively young population, its high percentage of rental properties, the public's expectation for high levels of park service, and the opportunity to promote tourism development. However, a reassessment, which included citizen surveys indicating a high level of support for current levels of facility and service provision, concluded that 7.0 acres of park land per 1,000 population is satisfactory. The Parks and Recreation Department will customize facilities and services according to the needs of each park zone. This is compatible with NRPA's 1996 guidelines, which encourage more flexibility in service and facility provision. With a 2002 ratio of 8.92 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents,¹ the Parks and Recreation Department meets its standard citywide, although some park zones are in deficit (see **Table 8, page VI-3**).

¹ Excluding Lick Creek Park's 515.5 acres and Veterans Athletic Park's 150 acres, which are intended to serve as a regional natural park and a regional athletic park, respectively.

Map G
College Station Parks Master Plan

TABLE 8
NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARK LAND NEEDS – 2002

Park Zone	2002 Year End Population¹	Jan. 2002 Park Land (Acres)²	2002 Ratio (Acres per 1,000)	2002 Park Land Needs (Acres) ³	2002 Deficit/ Surplus (Acres)
1	4,103	29.70**	7.23	28.72	+.98
2	11,350	55.88	4.92	79.45	-23.57
3	6,264	69.19	11.04	43.85	+25.34
4	1,425	14.37	10.08	9.97	+4.40
5	11,864	107.58	9.07	83.04	+24.54
6	15,888	115.58	7.27	111.22	+4.36
7	5,406	9.26	1.71	37.84	-28.58
8	2,824	26.40	9.34	19.77	+6.63
9	1,438	65.21	45.35	10.06	+55.15
10	3,355	24.13	7.19	23.48	+.65
11	2,267	10.20	4.50	15.87	-5.67
12	593	0.00	0.00	4.15	-4.15
13	455	4.35	9.56	3.18	+1.17
14	200	0.00	0.00	1.4	-1.4
15	1,342	0.00	0.00	9.4	-9.4
16	838	0.00	0.00	5.86	-5.86
City Total	69,612	531.85	7.64⁴	487.26	44.59

¹ 2002 estimated population. These statistics do not include approximately 10,000 students who live on campus at Texas A&M University. The university is not included in a park zone, and the recreational needs of on-campus students are expected to be met by the university.

² Mini, neighborhood and community parks (includes Hensel Park, which is owned by Texas A&M University; excludes the regional parks).

³ Based on standard of 3.5 acres for neighborhood parks and 3.5 acres for community parks per 1,000 population (total 7.0 acres per 1,000 population).

⁴ Average citywide.

** Owned by TAMU.

As discussed in **Section I**, a 3% annual population growth rate has been adopted to guide planning for park, recreation, and open space needs for College Station. By projecting expected population levels in 2012 by park zone, the amount of new park land needed to meet the general standard of 7.0 acres per 1,000 population can also be projected. In some park zones, the actual average may exceed the standard of 7.0 acres per 1,000, while in others it may be less than 7.0 acres. These deviations may be attributed to such circumstances as a park zone already exceeding the average and expecting little or no future growth, or a park zone that is proposed to be developed at a very low density (without a population level supporting the minimum recommended park size), yet still having a need for a neighborhood or community park.

Table 9 on page VI-7 provides projected population levels developed by the city's Planning Department for each park zone for the year 2012. The population in some park zones is expected to be stable over the period, while others are expected to have significant increases in population. The projections are based on current trends and indications from land developers of their intent to build different types of residential dwellings in the various zones. Of note, Texas A&M students who live on campus (approximately 10,000) are excluded from these projections since the university is not in a park zone and those students' recreational needs are expected to be met by campus facilities and programs. The projections do include, however, individuals who reside in or are expected to reside in areas outside of city limits but within the established park zones.

Table 10 on page VI-8 lists projected 2012 population levels by park zone, park land needs for those levels based on the 7 acres per 1,000 population standard, the 2002 deficit or surplus (**from Table 8, page VI-3**), the surplus or deficit resulting from population increases through the year 2012, and the total additional acres (current deficit/surplus plus future deficit/surplus) needed by the year 2012. **Appendix 10** provides a breakdown of these figures by neighborhood park land needs and community park land needs.

College Station has several sites that will be developed as regional parks. They include:

- **Lick Creek Park** - This site provides 515.5 acres of natural park land. Future plans for the park include the development of additional nature trails, support facilities, and an interpretive center. A master plan for Lick Creek Park was developed in 1998 and approved by the City Council. This park is also projected to be linked with greenways as part of the Greenways Master Plan. This site will be developed over a period of several years, using 1998 bond funds and matching grants. Phase I of this project is expected to be completed in 2003 and will include parking facilities, trails, and bridges.
- **Veterans Park & Athletic Complex** - Over the next fifteen years, the Parks and Recreation Department plans a phased development of this new regional athletic park. A master plan was developed for the site in May 2000 and initial development began in November 2001. Phase I of the project includes, six soccer fields, two adult softball fields, parking, restrooms, maintenance shop, and landscaping. The Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial, honoring all who have served their country, was dedicated on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2002.

- **Landfills** - Finally, the Parks and Recreation Department intends to seek the early development of existing and future landfill sites as regional limited use resource parks (**Appendix 8d and 8e**).² Master plans have been developed for both sites, and development will proceed as funding becomes available. These two sites will also serve as major connection points for a portion of the Greenways Master Plan.

The neighborhood park land acquisition and development are carried out principally through the city's Park Land Dedication Ordinance, with the occasional addition of General Obligation Bond Funds. Over the next fifteen years, substantial effort will be put into the development of Veterans Park, the new community park on Rock Prairie Road, and Lick Creek Park.

Park Facilities. Park facilities in College Station are provided on a mixture of standard, demand, and resource bases. Standard-based facilities include basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, play units, shelters, and similar items commonly found in city parks. For example, the Parks and Recreation Department has established a standard of one basketball court per neighborhood park and two per community park. Currently there are a total of 22 basketball courts (17 full courts and five half-basketball courts). Thirteen existing neighborhood parks (some undeveloped) and one community park (Bee Creek) do not have a basketball court, leaving an existing deficit of eight courts.

Other standard-based facilities will be added as new parks are developed, **unless the public input process indicates that they are not needed**. The Parks and Recreation Department does not plan to provide some facilities such as racquetball courts. The private sector and the university are expected to continue to meet the demand for this type of facility. The projected needs for some of the standards-based facilities include the following:

- **Playgrounds** – Twenty-four new playgrounds will be needed over the next ten years. This includes fourteen units in new neighborhood parks, five units in new community parks, four units in existing parks, and one in the regional athletic complex.
- **Basketball Courts** – Twenty-four new neighborhood basketball courts are currently needed. In addition to the seven needed for existing neighborhood parks, fourteen will be located in new neighborhood parks. Three will be required for new community parks.
- **Shelters** - Twenty-one additional shelters are needed. Five are needed for existing neighborhood parks and fourteen are needed for proposed new neighborhood parks. Two shelters will be needed for new community parks.
- **Sand Volleyball Courts** - Sixteen are needed, fourteen for the proposed new neighborhood parks and two for new community parks.

²For a review of plans for the existing Rock Prairie Road Landfill site, see *Waste Age* (January 1999), pp. 36-43.

- **Group Pavilions -** Four are needed. A pavilion will be located in each of the new community park sites in Zones 9 and 10, and two in the new Veterans Park and Athletic Complex.

- **Walking Trails** – A total of eighteen walking trails will be needed by 2012. Two in existing neighborhood parks, fourteen in future neighborhood parks and two in future community parks.



TABLE 9**PROJECTED POPULATION CHANGE BY PARK ZONE (2000/2012)¹**

Park Zone	2002 Year-End Estimated Population	Estimated 2012 Population²	Population Change	Percentage Changed
1	4,103	4,607	504	12.28
2	11,350	11,546	196	1.73
3	6,264	6,573	309	4.93
4	1,425	1,516	91	6.39
5	11,864	12,043	179	1.51
6	15,888	16,034	146	0.92
7	5,406	6,186	780	14.43
8	2,824	3,055	231	8.18
9	1,438	8,738	7,300	507.65
10	3,355	12,076	8,721	259.94
11	2,267	3,623	1,356	59.81
12	593	1,135	542	91.4
13	455	1,170	715	157.14
14	200	593	393	196.50
15	1,342	2,009	667	65.80
16	838	985	147	26.91
Total	69,612	91,889	22,277	32.00%

¹ These statistics do not include approximately 10,000 students who live on campus at Texas A&M University. The university is not included in a park zone, and the recreational needs of on-campus students are expected to be met by the university.

² Based upon a 3% annual growth rate citywide.

³ Projected population due to future growth.

TABLE 10**NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARK LAND NEEDS – 2012**

Park Zone	2012 Population	Jan. 2002 Park Land (Acres)¹	Park Land Needs 2012 (Acres)²	Total Additional Acres Needed by 2012
1	4,607	29.70**	32.25	2.55
2	11,546	55.88	80.82	24.94
3	6,573	69.19	46.01	0.00
4	1,818	14.37	12.73	0.00
5	12,043	107.58	84.30	0.00
6	16,034	115.58	112.24	0.00
7	6,186	9.26	43.30	34.04
8	3,055	26.40	21.38	0.00
9	8,738	65.21	61.16	0.00
10	12,076	24.13	84.53	60.40
11	3,623	10.20	25.36	15.16
12	1,135	0.00	7.94	7.94
13	1,170	4.35	8.19	3.84
14	593	0.00	4.15	4.15
15	2,009	0.00	14.07	14.07
16	985	0.00	6.88	6.88
City Total	91,889	531.85	645.31	173.97

¹Mini, neighborhood, and community parks (includes Hensel Park, which is owned by Texas A&M University; excludes the regional parks).

²Based on standard of 3.5 acres for neighborhood parks and 3.5 acres for community parks per 1,000 population (total 7.0 acres per 1,000 population). These statistics do not include approximately 10,000 students who live on campus at Texas A&M University. The university is not included in a park zone, and the recreational needs of on-campus students are expected to be met by the university.

** Owned by TAMU.

B. Resource-based Approach

In the process of preparing the parks and recreation sections of the city's Comprehensive Plan, the designation of greenways was identified as an important need for the community. In College Station, flood plain considerations and the provision of linkages between park and residential areas were factors used to identify potential greenway areas. A separate master plan for greenways was developed by the Greenways Implementation Task Force, an eleven-member group appointed by the City Council. The Council approved the Greenways Master Plan in 1999. As indicated previously, City voters approved a bond issue of \$3.64 million in 1998 for acquisition of greenways. Highlights of the Greenways Master Plan include:

- An inventory of current greenway resources;
- The provision of a natural greenways classification system;
- A prioritization of College Station's greenways;
- Development and maintenance guidelines for College Station's greenways; and
- Guidelines for implementation of the plan.

The plan recognizes that establishment of a greenways system is a long-term process involving several entities within the city government as well as city/community partnerships. The plan provides for future linkages of park sites such as Lick Creek, Veterans Park & Athletic Complex, and the parks that will be located on inactive landfills. A number of strategies are suggested for acquisition, regulation, construction, maintenance, and operations of greenways, as well as one suggested for coordination and promotion.

C. Demand-based Approach

A demand-based approach attempts to meet the community's desires for certain types of park and recreation facilities and services. Public views have been gathered through a variety of means. As described in **Section III**, sections of the city's Comprehensive Plan were developed through a series of interviews with members of the College Station City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, as well as with selected homeowners, business representatives, church leaders, developers, and others with an interest in the future of College Station. Community workshops and public hearings were held in 1994, 1995, and 1996. A community-wide survey was printed in the local newspaper, with the results incorporated into the recreation and parks sections of the city's 1997 Comprehensive Plan.

Also, as discussed in **Section III**, citizen opinions of parks and recreation (and other city) services are also regularly solicited through annual telephone surveys conducted by the Public Policy Research Institute at Texas A&M University. The city's 1996 survey of resident teenagers indicated that youths want additional activities, particularly in the spring and summer months. Surveys to identify the needs of youths 12 years old and under are anticipated. Other measures taken to assess the needs and desires of the city's residents with respect to recreation, parks, and

open spaces include a study conducted in 1997 by an undergraduate research methods class in the University's Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences (RPTS).

A factor to be considered in future updates of this plan is the impact of demographic changes on the demand for park, recreation, and open space facilities and services. A significant increase in the elderly population, for example, may result in an increased need for certain facilities and programs and a reduced need for others. The demand for practice facilities has seen an upward trend since 1999. An increased number of users' groups, including girls' softball and youth soccer are requesting additional practice facilities on a regular basis. Not only is the demand for quantity increasing, the desired quality is greater. Where once a flat, open area would suffice for practice, now users want improved facilities that are on par with game facilities.

Another demand placed on facilities is the ability to host local, state, and national-level tournaments. With the addition of Veterans Park and Athletic Complex, some of this demand is reduced. However, the city still does not have the ability to host adult slow pitch tournaments due to field size. The current adult softball complex at Central Park falls short of the 300-foot minimum fencing requirement necessary to host adult slow pitch tournaments.

Park Land. As described in Section A, paragraph 1 above, the provision of neighborhood and community park land is generally standard-based, although adaptations may be made according to the unique needs of each community. The annual resident surveys have found strong citizen support for the current availability of park land. Should future surveys indicate otherwise, existing standards may be reviewed and revised accordingly.

Park Facilities. In its 1996 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, NRPA recommends that projected park facility needs be based upon citizen desires and specific regional needs. In College Station, the primary use of park facilities is by the residents of the community. However, park designs are also determined by the city's desire to attract local, state, regional, and national sports tournaments in order to spur economic development. This provides an "added value" for the cost of developing and maintaining these facilities.

To project the need for various sports fields through the year 2012, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and the staff reviewed current facility availability, use, and deficiencies. The criteria in this review included history and trends (registration, future population needs, tournaments hosted in past years, and requests for more facilities). **Table 11, page VI 12-13** provides a summary of participation numbers for a variety of parks and recreation programs for 2001 (these numbers do not include observers who also utilize the park facilities). In 2002, there was existing unmet demand for a range of athletic and other facilities. Projections of this demand for recreation facilities are detailed in **Table 12 on page VI-14.**

- **Tennis Courts** - Currently, twenty-seven lighted tennis courts are available to the public. In 2000, four lighted tennis courts were built at the A&M Consolidated Middle School by the College Station Independent School District (CSISD). The city participated financially and

these courts are available for use by the public in the evenings and on weekends. The city funded the addition of lights to the High School tennis courts in exchange for public access when not in used by CSISD. This has added a total of thirteen courts for public use. Four courts have also been installed at the Junior High School on Rock Prairie Road. It is possible that the city could enter into an agreement with CSISD to light these courts for public use. Two additional courts were installed with the development of Castlegate Park. These additional courts have more than doubled the number available for public use in the last four years. These should meet the needs of the community for the next five years. Six additional tennis courts will be needed for the new community park in Zone 9 and in a future community park in Zone 10.

- **Swimming Pools** - Currently, three outdoor swimming pools exist, and city residents have some limited access to the College Station Independent School District's indoor pool (the Natatorium) at the College Station Middle School. The provision of swimming pools is dictated by the level of use. There were a total of 119,329 visits to the College Station pools in 2001. There is currently no evidence of overcrowding at existing facilities, although certain facilities are used to capacity at peak hours.

There are a variety of competitive swim teams that utilize the city-operated pools throughout the year. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a spring/summer swim team – the College Station Tsunamis, which had 237 members in 2002. The swim team utilizes the College Station Middle School Natatorium during the spring and summer. Swim meets are held there as well. The High School swim team also uses the Natatorium during the school term, with morning and afternoon workouts. The U.S.S. Aggie Swim Club utilizes the Natatorium during fall, winter, and spring months for workouts. It is likely that a new community pool will be needed within ten years to serve the projected population growth in the rapidly developing southern portion of the city.

- **Recreation Centers** - Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department has one traditional recreation center, "Lincoln Center," which had 67,665 visitors in 2001. A new Teen Center, "The Exit," has been constructed in the Southwood Valley Athletic Park. Having this facility within a reasonable distance to the Junior High School attracts students for leisure, social, and recreational activities in a safe and positive environment during after-school hours.

Additional indoor recreation facilities are currently needed on the east side of Texas Avenue to serve the existing population. These facilities should be developed as joint facilities with elementary schools in those neighborhoods. Also, a new recreation center is likely to be needed by the year 2010 to accommodate the city's anticipated growth to the south, which will leave a large number of new residents many miles from the existing and planned recreation centers. This could be most efficiently developed if it was done jointly with the new high school or elementary school planned for that area.

The city also operates a Conference Center on George Bush Drive. This facility is designated for use as a meeting facility and is available for rentals. This use may change once a new hotel and convention center complex is completed in the Highway 30/60 corridor.

TABLE 11

**COLLEGE STATION PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARTICIPATION NUMBERS ~ FY 2002**

	Recreation Activity	Participation Numbers
Athletics Youth:	Basketball	639
	Flag Football	423
	Girls Softball	490
	College Station Tsunamis	
	Swim Team	226
	Stroke Clinic	160
	Punt, Pass & Kick	88
	Youth Volleyball**	119
	Challenger Basketball	40
Athletics Adult:	Softball	6,636 participants/474 teams*
	Volleyball	100 teams*
	Flag Football	10 teams
Aquatics:	Number of visits annually (includes CSISD pool)	130,113
	Total days that at least one pool is available during the year (includes CSISD pool)	334
Instructional:	Tennis Lessons	381
	Swim Lessons	2,235
	Water Fitness	565
	Team Tennis	215
Educational:	Xtra Education Class	2,951
Youth Services:	Kids Klub (After school enrichment)	Individuals average 762
	Educational Activities	1,382
	Leisure, Recreational Activities (dances, socials, etc.)	11,083
Facilities:	Lincoln Center visits	68,189
	Conference Center visits	74,401
	Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater visits	48,800

*All Seasons

** Joint program with the City of Bryan

Facilities		Participation Numbers
External Groups:		
<i>College Station Little League</i>	Baseball	1,000
<i>Youth Soccer</i>	Fall '01	1,363
	Spring '02	1,333
<i>Adult Soccer</i>	Spring, Summer, Fall '01	12-15 teams per season



The recreation experience extends beyond those directly involved in the activity. Parents, relatives, and friends enjoy watching as team members compete in athletic and other enrichment programs. The value to these "side-line" participants can be as rewarding to them as it is to the team members themselves. Participation estimates traditionally do not include these individuals.

TABLE 12

PROJECTIONS FOR RECREATION FACILITIES¹

Facility	Current Number¹	Total # Needed Currently	Total # Needed by 2007	Total # Needed by 2012
Adult Baseball Fields	0	1	1	1
Adult Softball Fields	6	6	7	9
Flag Football Fields	0	4	5	6
Group Pavilions	9	10	11	13
Outdoor Basketball Courts	22	32	39	46
Outdoor Swimming Pools	3	4	4	5
Playgrounds/Play Units	36	44	52	60
Recreation/Senior Centers	2 ³	3	4	4
Sand Volleyball Courts	8	9	17	24
Shelters	17	24	31	38
Soccer Fields	19 ²	19	22	27 ²
Tennis Courts	27 ⁴	27	27	33
Walking Trails	23	26	33	41
Youth Baseball Fields	9	9	12	15
Youth Softball Fields	3	4	4	6
Other Facilities:				
Archery Range	0	1	1	1
Frisbee Golf Course	0	1	1	1
Radio Control Course/Fields	0	1	1	1
Regulation Golf Course	0	1	1	1
Roller Hockey/Skateboard	0	1	1	1

¹ Includes facilities at Hensel Park.

² The six adult soccer fields at Veterans Park and Athletic Complex can be converted to twelve youth fields.

³ Includes the Exit Teen Center.

⁴ Includes tennis courts at High School and at the Middle School.

Source: City of College Station Parks & Recreation Department estimates.

- **Regulation Baseball Fields** - Currently, nine youth baseball fields exist serving 1,000 players. The number of players is expected to increase significantly over the next ten years, resulting in a need for an additional three baseball fields in five years, and three more by 2012.

One adult baseball field is needed to meet current demand, however, there are none available in College Station. The City of Bryan has one large field at Travis Park that has been used as the high school facility for many years. However, Bryan High School has expanded its facilities over the past several years, including the construction of a competition baseball field. This may open Travis Park field to other uses such as adult baseball leagues.

In addition to the adult baseball field, there is an emerging need for a Pony League-sized baseball field in College Station.

- **Regulation Softball Fields** - The city currently has six adult fields and three youth fields for a total of nine fields. The current demand for softball supports six adult fields and four youth fields. The adult facilities were utilized at their maximum for over ten years. During that time the city turned away an average of 30 adult teams per season, or 90 per year. Due to fee restructuring, the demand dropped significantly, however is recovering quickly. Between 2001 and 2002 the program saw an eleven percent increase. In 2002, the city had a total of 474 adult softball teams or 6,636 participants in the three city seasons. In addition, the city hosts or assists with state, regional, national, and invitational softball tournaments each year. In 2002, fourteen of these types of tournaments were held in College Station. It should be noted that four of the current adult fields are no longer in compliance with the national standard for softball fields, and are being used under local rule modification to allow for a smaller field to be used.

Girls' softball has become popular with its inclusion in most Texas High Schools as a UIL championship sport for girls, and it has been included as an official Olympic Sport for women in the Olympic Games since 1996. In 2002, the city had 490 girls registered in their softball program, with Little League having 90 girls who interleagued with the Bryan program.

Given these increases in demand, facility needs are expected to increase to seven adult fields and four youth fields by 2007, and nine adult fields by 2012. To accommodate this growth, this plan provides for the development of nine new adult fields in Veterans Park and Athletic Complex over the next fifteen years and the conversion of the four existing adult fields in Central Park to youth softball. Due to the area-wide population of the adult leagues, continued close coordination with the City of Bryan is needed to maximize facility usage and avoid duplication of resources. This is accomplished through frequent meetings between recreation officials from both cities.

- **Regulation Soccer Fields** - City soccer facilities serve multiple groups in the community. In fall 2001 and spring 2002, the College Station Youth Soccer Association registered 2,696 children in its' two seasons. In addition to the recreational youth league, there were 15 competitive teams from two different youth organizations registered. The competitive teams utilize the soccer facilities on a year-round basis for practices and games. The city also contracts with the local adult soccer association to permit them to use city facilities. The adult league offers three seasons per year and averages about 12-15 teams per season.

The city currently has nineteen regulation soccer fields (eleven adult and eight youth). Currently, three of the adult fields are shared with the 12-and-under youth groups and two are used during the fall season for flag football. Twenty-two fields will be needed for the projected 2007 demand, and 27 fields for projected 2012 demand. The two existing lighted adult fields at Southwood Park will be converted to flag football fields once new fields are provided in Veterans Park and Athletic Complex.

- **Flag Football Fields** - Currently, there are no football fields in the Parks and Recreation Department's inventory. Both the adult and youth flag football programs utilize the two large soccer fields at Southwood Valley Athletic Park. The youth program has become one of the most popular programs offered, with 423 children registered in 2002. The adult league registered ten teams in 2002. The two large baseball fields at Southwood Valley Athletic Park are utilized for the Punt, Pass & Kick program, which registered 88 participants in 2002.

Four flag football fields are needed for current demand, with an additional field needed by 2007 and one more by 2012. Two lighted flag football fields will be established at Southwood Valley Athletic Park from the conversion of two existing soccer fields, and one additional lighted flag football field is planned for W.A. Tarrow Park.

- **Group Pavilions** - The city currently has six group pavilions that can accommodate functions of up to 300 people. During peak seasons, all facilities are booked well in advance. Two pavilions are planned for Veterans Park and Athletic Complex and two additional pavilions will be included with the development of the new community park.
- **Other Facilities** - There are several types of facilities that have been requested in the past that are not included in current development plans. They include archery, a senior citizens' center, roller hockey and skateboard, radio control courses/fields, campsites, go-cart tracks, Frisbee golf, and regulation public golf courses. Facilities for these demands will be investigated for feasibility in future years and included in development plans as funding and support is obtained.

Park Programs. College Station's Parks and Recreation Department provides a variety of aquatic, athletic, educational, entertainment, and historical programs. These range from swimming lessons to youth basketball to the Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley (see Table 11). The provision of additional programs through the year 2012 will be based on demand for existing and new activities. For example, pent up demand for athletic programs has already been identified, leading to decisions to create additional sports fields (see above).

Similarly, the Parks and Recreation Department staff have identified the need for additional programs necessitating indoor facilities, recreation centers, and senior centers which will justify both the use of existing school facilities and the need for new parks and recreation indoor facilities. These include programs that will be oriented to the growing senior population in our community, as well as special youth populations including teens and after school enrichment needs (see Table 12).



Participation in adult softball leagues and the ability to host local, state, and national tournaments is currently limited. The addition of new fields in Veterans Park and Athletic Complex will help to meet the existing and future demand for this popular adult leisure activity.